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PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No. 960/121

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hatsuo Nakao, et al.
Serial No.: 09/986,196
Filed: November 7, 2001
For: VEHICLE DRIVING APPARATUS
Examiner: Thus V. Nguyen
Group Art Unit: 3661

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and the enclosed PTO Form No. 1449, shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). The paragraph(s) marked below are applicable. It is believed that no fees other than those indicated below are due, but authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees due, or to credit any overpayment, to deposit account 11-0600.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d), (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (d) before the mailing of a first office action after filing of a request for continued examination. No certification or fee is required.

☒ 2. English-language Abstract of the non-English language reference is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

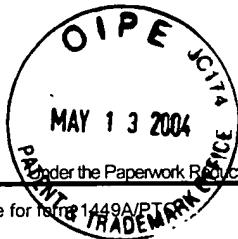
KENYON & KENYON

Date: MAY 13, 2004



William E. Curry
Registration No. 43,572

Kenyon & Kenyon
1500 K Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 220-4200



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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of

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/986,196
Filing Date	November 7, 2001
First Named Inventor	Nakao Hatsuo, et al.
Art Unit	3661
Examiner Name	Thus V. Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number	960/121

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		DE 710787	09-22-41	Dietrich		Abstract

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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